



**2026 WORLD ATHLETICS RELAYS: 1 – 2 MAY 2026, GABORONE,
BOTSWANA**

SELECTION POLICY – published January 2026

Updated February 2026 – Amendment to paragraph 10, Appendix 1

The 2026 World Athletics Relays, Gaborone, Botswana (the “Championships”). presents a key performance and qualification opportunity for British athletes competing in relay events.

This Selection Policy (the “Policy”) sets out the selection process for the team to represent Great Britain & Northern Ireland (“GB&NI”) at the Championships in the men’s and women’s 4 x 100m, 4 x 400m and the Mixed 4 x 100m and Mixed 4 x 400m relay events.

As per the World Class Programme (“WCP”) 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m Relay Agreement, all WCP relay athletes are expected to make themselves available for selection.

The Championships are a crucial qualification event for the 2027 World Athletics Championships.

Athletes should note that they must comply with all General Eligibility Criteria given in Appendix 1 to compete for Great Britain & Northern Ireland at these championships. **New World Athletics Female Athlete Category Testing (‘FACT’) is now an Eligibility Requirement. Female athletes should note that they must have an SRY Gene Test in order to be eligible to compete - see Appendix 1, paragraph 2.**

Athletes should note that **they must comply with all General Eligibility requirements** to compete for Great Britain & Northern Ireland at these Championships. Please refer to Appendix 1.

The Performance Objectives that underpin selection for the Championships is:

To qualify all GB&NI relay teams for the 2027 World Athletics Championships, whilst **Providing development opportunities for athletes where appropriate**, in alignment with long-term relay performance objectives.

Selection will be underpinned by evidence of current form, relay capability, fitness, and the ability to contribute to successful qualification outcomes.

SELECTIONS

1. The selection meetings will take place on **3 March 2026**.
2. Selections will be based on the Performance Objectives of the Championships as stated above.
3. Selections will be published on **4 March 2026**.
4. Selections will be subject to the maximum number of entries as follows:
 - a. A maximum of one team may be entered in each relay.

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- b. A maximum of eight (8) athletes may be selected for each of the men’s and women’s 4 x 100m, 4 x 400m and the Mixed Relay events.
- c. All athletes must meet the General Eligibility Criteria set out in Appendix 1.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SELECTION

- 5. Athletes must meet all Eligibility Criteria set out in Appendix 1.
- 6. Unless otherwise agreed by the Head of Sprints, athletes must be available to attend the full pre-Championship preparation camp.
- 7. Complying with both requirements means an athlete can be considered in the Selection Process; it does not guarantee selection.

SELECTION PROCESS

- 8. The Selection Panel will only select from athletes who meet the Eligibility Requirements set out above.
- 9. Selection will be based on maximising the likelihood of the relay teams qualifying for the 2027 World Athletics Championships.
- 10. The Selection Panel will consider the selection criteria listed below. The criteria are not listed in priority order, may be weighted differently and may be disregarded at the Selection Panel’s discretion.
- 11. The Selection Panel may in its discretion nominate one additional eligible reserve athlete who fulfils the aims of the policy, as determined by the Selection Panel. There is no obligation on the Selection Panel to nominate reserves.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- 12. Athletes being considered for selection in their respective events will be assessed by the Selection Panel using the criteria below:
 - Performance and performance consistency during the 2025 outdoor and 2026 indoor season in both individual and relay events.
 - Individual flat speed relevant to the specific relay event distance
 - Specific relay skills as assessed in training and in competition including but not limited to: consideration of the team make-up and other athletes selected (adaptability, ability to execute a particular leg), relay flat speed performance, check mark discipline, consistency of performance in key relay elements as determined by the Selection Panel.
 - Recent athlete performance history as part of the relay in championships since 2024
 - Contribution and commitment to relay team-based training/competition activity
 - Medical, injury and health-related status
 - Where relevant adherence to the WCP/Futures Relay Programme
 - Other factors the Selection Panel deem relevant.

PRE-TRAINING CAMP REQUIREMENTS

- 13. All selected athletes must:

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- a. Be available to attend the pre-training camp from 21 April to 29 April 2026, and;
- b. Be fully fit and able to participate in all relay training activities

14. No dispensation will be granted unless exceptional circumstances are discussed and agreed in advance with the Head of Sprints and Relays.

SELECTION PANEL

15. The Selection Panel shall comprise the Members stated below. A substitute may be nominated at any time by the Performance Director if a member (including the Performance Director) is unavailable:

- a. Voting Members:
 - i. Performance Director
 - ii. Head of Sprints & Relays
 - iii. 4 x 100m Relay Coach
 - iv. 4 x 400m Relay Coach
 - v. Specialist Relay Coach

- b. Non-Voting Members:
 - i. Chairperson
 - ii. Event specialist(s), as nominated by the Performance Director if considered necessary
 - iii. British Elite Athletes Associate or UKA Athletes Commission observer or another observer (as required)
 - iv. UK Athletics Medical representative (as required)
 - v. Legal representative (as required)
 - vi. Head of Performance Pathways and Programmes
 - vii. Note taker(s), and;
 - viii. Any other person invited by the Chairperson

16. In the event of an actual, potential, or possible conflict relating to any voting member of the Selection Panel, it should be reported to the Chairperson of the selection meeting who shall determine whether the Voting Member in question should be permitted to take part in relation to any selection decision(s). In any event including but not limited to conflict of interest or absence, the Chairperson may appoint an alternative voting member if necessary.

17. Voting of the Selection Panel shall be by simple majority. The Performance Director shall have the casting vote, if required. If the Performance Director is unable to vote due to a conflict the Chairperson shall nominate the panel member with the casting vote if required.

18. The Selection Panel may make any selection subject to the athlete completing a performance requirement or test set by the Selection Panel.

19. The Selection Panel will have discretion as to which relay event(s) athletes will be selected for based on achieving the aims of the Policy.

DE-SELECTION

20. Following selection, an athlete may be de-selected by the Selection Panel or UK Athletics in the event of:

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- a. The athlete ceasing to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in this Selection Policy, World Athletics Eligibility rules. or other strategy document or policy communicated by UK Athletics.
- b. Failure to sign the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement.
- c. Failure to comply with any conditions set by the Selection Panel.
- d. Application of the UK Athletics Team Medical Policy as set out in the World Class Programme Athlete Agreement or Team Member Agreement.
- e. The athlete not complying with any selection conditions set by UK Athletics.
- f. Any anti-doping rule violation or provisional suspension or failure to complete any required anti-doping action, including training or courses.
- g. Any serious misconduct or suspension due to misconduct.
- h. A breach of any UK Athletics policy.
- i. UK Athletics reasonably considering that the athlete will be unable to perform at the level required or expected due to any reason including loss of form or failure to recover fully or as expected from injury or illness or other health-related matter, or:
- j. Failure to opt-in to team training or events.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

21. Appeals

There will be no right of appeal to the selection of the GB&NI Team made by the Selection Panel. The provisions of the UK Athletics Fast Appeals Procedure do not apply to the GB&NI team selections for the 2026 World Relay Championships.

22. Amendment

UK Athletics reserves the right to amend this Selection Policy at any time at its discretion and will make any amended version publicly available (including the date on which any amendment was made) at www.britishathletics.org.uk

23. Governing Law

This Selection Policy shall be governed by and constructed in accordance with the law of England and Wales.

24. Jurisdiction

Any dispute or claim (other than appeals) arising out of or in connection with this Selection Policy shall be submitted for determination exclusively to arbitration under the auspices of Sports Resolutions (UK) Limited and subject to the procedural control of the English Courts.

Key Contacts

- Performance: Darren Campbell (dcampbell@britishathletics.org.uk)
- Policy queries and guidance: Tina Ryan (tryan@uka.org.uk)
- Medical: George Polglass (gpolglass@uka.org.uk) or Dr James Brown (jbrown@britishathletics.org.uk)
- Championships logistics: Lorna Dwyer (ldwyer@britishathletics.org.uk)

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APPENDIX 1 – GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

1. Be eligible to compete for GB&NI and be the holder of a full and current British passport.
2. If competing in a Female Athlete Category event, possess a SRY Gene Test Certificate before 9 April 2026. This is in line with World Athletics eligibility rules (Technical Rule 3, Eligibility Rule 3.5).
3. Comply with all World Athletics and competition rules relevant to the category and/or event they wish to compete in.
4. Is not serving a period of ineligibility from the sport (as determined by UK Athletics or a Home Country Athletics Federation) or from any other sport. For example, due to misconduct and/or disciplinary reasons.
5. Not under investigation or been charged by UK Athletics, a Home Country Athletics Federation, or any other relevant organisation (including the police and CPS) with misconduct or any disciplinary, safeguarding or criminal offence.
6. Completed all anti-doping requirements.
7. Not committed a criminal, disciplinary or safeguarding offence that in the reasonable opinion of the Board of UK Athletics renders the athlete unsuitable for selection.
8. Has not, whether by an act or omission, brought UK Athletics into disrepute.
9. Meet the standards and behaviour expected by UK Athletics, as published from time to time, including in the International Athletes Code of Conduct.
10. Be registered as a member with the relevant Home Country Athletics Federation (HCAF), directly or through a club. Exemption may be granted in exceptional circumstances only, where an athlete must be registered to a club in a foreign country due to local laws and regulations governing residency and training. In such cases, the athlete should seek written approval from the Performance Director in advance.
11. Be 16 years or older as of 31 December 2026 (i.e. born in 2010 or earlier), may compete.
12. Athletes under 16 as of 31 December 2026 (i.e. born in 2011 or later) may not compete.
13. Sign the UK Athletics Team Members' Agreement ("TMA") or World Class Programme Agreement as applicable and abide by its terms and conditions. Any athlete failing to do so prior to the first date of competition will result in their selection being withdrawn. The current version of the TMA can be found online at <https://www.uka.org.uk/performance/british-athletics-teams-information/>

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